

## RESEARCH OUTPUTS / RÉSULTATS DE RECHERCHE

### **OC-0389 Individualized prophylactic irradiation based on sentinel lymph node(s) identification in cN0 HNSCC**

Longton, E.; Lawson, G.; Deheneffe, S.; Bihin, B.; Mathieu, Isabelle; Hanin, F.; Borght, T. Vander; Daisne, J.

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## Purpose or Objective

The DAHANCA9 hyperfractionation study and the MARCH meta-analysis (Bourhis et al, Lancet 2006) on altered fractionation showed that Hyperfractionated Accelerated Radiotherapy (HART) is superior in terms of loco-regional control (LRC) and overall survival (OS) compared to conventional or moderately accelerated radiotherapy for Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinomas (HNSCC). Since 2007, HART has been included as a treatment option in the Danish DAHANCA radiotherapy guidelines. The aim of the present study was to evaluate this treatment strategy using LRC, OS and late morbidity as endpoints.

## Material and Methods

Prospectively registered patients (pts) with HNSCC treated with HART according to national guidelines prescribed as 76Gy/56fx, 10 fx/week, as primary treatment were identified in the DAHANCA database and updated. The study was evaluated as intention to treat and elective neck-dissection was not an option.

## Results

From July 2007 to December 2017, 271 pts with HNSCC treated with HART were identified in four national cancer centers that on a regular basis offers HART according to treatment guidelines. The median age was 64 years (32-81 years) and 74% were males. The majority of pts were WHO PS 0-1 (94%) and only 6% were WHO PS  $\geq 2$ . Most (84%) were current or previous smokers with a smoking history of median 42 pack-years (1-140 pack-years). The primary site was larynx in 65 cases (24%); 176 cases were in the pharynx (65%) and 30 pts had oral cavity cancer (11%). In total, 62% of the cases were stage III-IV (UICC7). In the pharynx, 138 cases (78%) were of oropharyngeal origin and of those, 48% were HPV/p16+. The proportion of pts receiving HART as planned was 96%. No patients received adjuvant or concomitant chemotherapy. As per September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, 50 loco-regional failures (19% of the pts) were detected with a median follow-up time of 29 months: 47 occurred in T-site and 15 in N-site. Among those, 12 pts had both T- and N-site failure. Three-year actuarial LRC was 81% and OS was 68%. LRC at three years was significantly different for stage I-II and stage III-IV HNSCC (90% vs. 74%, HR 0.44 (range 0.23-0.81)) but not significantly better for HPV/p16+ oropharyngeal carcinomas compared to the HPV/p16- oropharynx pts (94% vs 89%). The proportion of pts reporting severe late dysphagia was 16%, and 9% reported late, severe dryness of the mouth; 8% were observed with late tardive edema of the larynx, 10% with severe mucosal atrophy and 5% with severe fibrosis of the subcutaneous tissue in the neck region.

## Conclusion

Hyperfractionated accelerated radiotherapy is an attractive treatment approach in patients with HNSCC. Three-year loco-regional control as observed in this study is more than 80% and that is reflected in an acceptable overall survival. In this study, HART produced equally good results for HPV/p16+ and HPV/p16- oropharyngeal cancer patients. Severe late morbidity is reasonably low and comparable to treatment with chemo-radiotherapy.

## OC-0389 Individualized prophylactic irradiation based on sentinel lymph node(s) identification in cN0 HNSCC

E. Longton<sup>1</sup>, G. Lawson<sup>2</sup>, S. Deheneff<sup>1</sup>, B. Bihin<sup>3</sup>, I.

Mathieu<sup>4</sup>, F. Hanin<sup>4</sup>, T. Vander Borgh<sup>5</sup>, J. Daisne<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CHU UCL Namur- site Sainte-Elisabeth, Radiation oncology, Namur, Belgium; <sup>2</sup>CHU UCL Namur- site

Godinne, Head and Neck Surgery, Yvoir, Belgium; <sup>3</sup>Namur Research Institute for Life Sciences Narilis, Unit of Biostatistics, Namur, Belgium; <sup>4</sup>CHU UCL Namur- site

Sainte-Elisabeth, Nuclear Medicine, Namur, Belgium; <sup>5</sup>CHU UCL Namur- site Godinne, Nuclear Medicine, Yvoir, Belgium

## Purpose or Objective

Due to a risk of occult nodal metastases in clinically node-negative (cN0) head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

(HNSCC) patients, prophylactic and often bilateral neck irradiation is mandatory. However, it leads to a large irradiation of healthy tissues and could miss unexpected nodal basins drained by the tumor. This prospective, non-randomized, interventional phase II study investigated how sentinel lymph node (SLN) mapping by SPECT/CT may help to individualize prophylactic neck irradiation and its potential impact on radiation-related toxicities and tumor control. The final results are presented.

## Material and Methods

Forty-four patients with newly diagnosed cN0 squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, oropharynx, larynx or hypopharynx were included and treated with upfront (chemo)radiotherapy with a curative intent. After simulation, all patients were imaged in treatment position with SPECT/CT after <sup>99m</sup>Tc nanocolloid injection around the tumor. The neck levels containing up to four hottest SLN were selected for prophylactic irradiation (CTVn-LS). A comparative virtual planning was performed by including the levels selected on the basis of the current international guidelines (CTVn-IG). Dosimetric data to the different organs-at-risk (OAR) were compared between both plans. Normal tissue complication probability (NTCP) models for xerostomia and dysphagia as well as quality of life assessments (EORTC C30 and H&N35 scales) are being investigated to predict the clinical benefit of this technique.

## Results

Lymphatic migration was observed in all of the 44 patients. Four patients (9%) presented an unpredicted lymphatic drainage and 21 patients (48%) had only an unilateral drainage. The volumes of CTVn-LS and PTvN-LS (median volumes of 91.8 cc and 219.1 cc, respectively) were systematically smaller than CTVn-IG and PTvN-IG (median volumes of 188.3 cc and 405.3 cc, respectively). This led to a significant dose decrease in identified OAR, particularly to the contralateral parotid gland, contralateral submandibular gland, inferior constrictor muscle for oral/oropharynx tumors and superior constrictor muscle for larynx/hypopharynx tumors (Table 1). NTCP values and QoL data processing is still work in progress and will be presented during the congress. At a median follow-up of 42 months, 3 patients experienced a regional relapse: 2 in an irradiated area (4.5%) and 1 in a non-irradiated area (2.3%). Currently, 4 patients had a local recurrence and 6 patients died (2 patients from geriatric degradation and 4 patients experienced fatal local relapse).

Comparative dosimetry of clinically significant organs-at-risk

OARs	IG plan Median Dose (Gy)	LS plan Median Dose (Gy)	p-Value*	Median $\Delta$ Dose (Gy)
Unilateral lymph drainage on SPECT/CT (n = 21)				
Oral cavity and oropharynx carcinoma				
Parotid gland (ipsilateral)	28.5	26.7	0.69	-1.8
Parotid gland (contralateral)	25.3	18.6	0.03	-6.6
Submandibular gland (ipsilateral)	45.0	42.1	0.87	-2.9
Submandibular gland (contralateral)	49.8	20.9	<0.01	-28.9
Superior PCH	57.3	55.2	0.09	-2.1
Middle PCH	38.2	32.2	0.14	-6.0
Inferior PCH	33.8	13.4	0.01	-20.4
Hypopharynx and larynx carcinoma				
Parotid gland (ipsilateral)	18.9	16.0	0.03	-2.9
Parotid gland (contralateral)	19.5	4.0	<0.01	-15.5
Submandibular gland (ipsilateral)	39.2	36.5	0.08	-2.7
Submandibular gland (contralateral)	41.6	11.9	<0.01	-29.7
Superior PCH	56.0	20.9	<0.01	-35.1
Middle PCH	49.1	42.5	0.22	-6.6
Inferior PCH	58.6	57.3	0.66	-1.3
Bilateral lymph drainage on SPECT/CT (n = 23)				
Oral cavity and oropharynx carcinoma				
Parotid gland (ipsilateral)	27.15	25.75	0.43	-1.4
Parotid gland (contralateral)	25.05	23.0	0.45	-2.05
Submandibular gland (ipsilateral)	50.15	46.3	0.55	-3.85
Submandibular gland (contralateral)	42.1	38.4	0.31	-3.7
Superior PCH	54.25	54.25	0.66	0.0
Middle PCH	47.6	44.2	0.70	-3.4
Inferior PCH	46.7	19.05	<0.01	-27.65
Hypopharynx and larynx carcinoma				
Parotid gland (ipsilateral)	20.7	18.9	0.02	-1.8
Parotid gland (contralateral)	29.2	18.7	0.02	-10.5
Submandibular gland (ipsilateral)	39.5	35.95	0.06	-3.55
Submandibular gland (contralateral)	37.25	33.55	0.04	-3.7
Superior PCH	36.55	30.55	0.05	-6.0
Middle PCH	56.5	56.15	0.44	-0.35
Inferior PCH	50.05	50.3	0.74	0.25

Abbreviations: IG: International guidelines; LS: Lymphoscintigraphy; PCH: pharyngeal constrictor muscle

\* Mann-Whitney-U test, two-sided test.

## Conclusion

SLN mapping using SPECT/CT allowed to significantly reduce the prophylactically irradiated neck volumes in cN0 HNSCC patients. This resulted in a significant dose decrease in OAR, especially in patients presenting an unilateral lymphatic drainage, while uncompromising the

oncological outcome. The final analysis of the clinical impact of dose reduction to OAR will be presented.

**OC-0390 TCGA molecular subclassification is prognostic for LRC of HNSCC after postoperative RCTx**  
 A. Linke<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, B. Tawak<sup>5,6,7</sup>, S. Löck<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, M. Großer<sup>8</sup>, F. Lohaus<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, V. Gudziol<sup>4,9</sup>, A. Nowak<sup>4,10</sup>, I. Tinhofer<sup>11,12</sup>, V. Budach<sup>11,12</sup>, M. Stuschke<sup>13,14</sup>, P. Balermipas<sup>15,16</sup>, C. Rödel<sup>15,16</sup>, H. Schäfer<sup>17,18</sup>, A. Grosu<sup>17,18</sup>, J. Debus<sup>5,7,19,20,21</sup>, U. Ganswindt<sup>22,23,24</sup>, C. Belka<sup>22,23,24</sup>, S. Pigorsch<sup>23,25</sup>, S.E. Combs<sup>23,25,26</sup>, D. Mönnich<sup>27,28</sup>, D. Zips<sup>27,28</sup>, G.B. Baretton<sup>3,4,8,29</sup>, A. Abdollahi<sup>15,6,7,20,21</sup>, M. Krause<sup>1,2,3,4,30</sup>, M. Baumann<sup>1,2,3,31</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany ; <sup>2</sup>OncoRay - National Center for Radiation Research in Oncology, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany ; <sup>3</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Dresden, Germany ; <sup>4</sup>National Center for Tumor Diseases, partner site Dresden and Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany ; <sup>5</sup>Heidelberg Institute of Radiation Oncology and National Center for Radiation Research in Oncology, University of Heidelberg Medical School and German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>6</sup>Translational Radiation Oncology, University of Heidelberg Medical School and German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>7</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>8</sup>Institute of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany ; <sup>9</sup>Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany ; <sup>10</sup>Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany ; <sup>11</sup>Department of Radiooncology and Radiotherapy, Charité University Hospital, Berlin, Germany ; <sup>12</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Berlin, Germany ; <sup>13</sup>Department of Radiotherapy, Medical Faculty, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany ; <sup>14</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Essen, Germany ; <sup>15</sup>Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, Goethe-University Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany ; <sup>16</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>17</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Medical Faculty, University of Freiburg, Germany ; <sup>18</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Freiburg, Germany ; <sup>19</sup>Clinical Cooperation Unit Radiation Oncology, University of Heidelberg Medical School and German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>20</sup>National Center for Tumor Diseases, University of Heidelberg Medical School and German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>21</sup>Heidelberg Ion Therapy Center, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Heidelberg Medical School, Germany ; <sup>22</sup>Department of Radiotherapy and Radiation Oncology, University Hospital, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany ; <sup>23</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Munich, Germany ; <sup>24</sup>Clinical Cooperation Group Personalized Radiotherapy in Head and Neck Cancer, Helmholtz Zentrum Munich, Neuherberg, Germany ; <sup>25</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany ; <sup>26</sup>Institute of Innovative Radiotherapy, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Oberschleißheim, Germany ; <sup>27</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Faculty of

Medicine and University Hospital Tübingen, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany ; <sup>28</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg and German Cancer Consortium, partner site Tübingen, Germany ; <sup>29</sup>Tumour- and Normal Tissue Bank- University Cancer Centre, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany ; <sup>30</sup>Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden - Rossendorf, Institute of Radiooncology, Dresden, Germany ; <sup>31</sup>German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany

#### Purpose or Objective

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) recently provided a molecular subclassification of head and neck squamous cell carcinomas (HNSCC) including an atypical, classical, basal and mesenchymal subtype. The aims of the present study are to investigate (I) the impact of this subclassification on loco-regional control (LRC) in patients with locally advanced HNSCC who received postoperative radiochemotherapy (RCTx); and (II) the enrichment of those subtypes in radiobiologically relevant aspects such as hypoxia, epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) and cancer stem cells (CSCs).

#### Material and Methods

In this retrospective multicentre study, 195 patients with locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, oropharynx and hypopharynx were included. All patients received surgery followed by postoperative RCTx between 2005 and 2011. Their median follow-up was about 26 months. Whole transcriptome analysis was performed using the HTA 2.0 Array (Affymetrix). Tumours were classified into the four subtypes atypical, classical, basal or mesenchymal, based on four cluster centres of the expressions of 838 genes that were previously reported. A clear classification was possible for 141 out of 195 patients. Hypoxia was assessed using an established hypoxia-associated 15-gene signature. For EMT, a previously developed 31-gene signature was applied and for the analysis of CSC markers, previously reported putative CSC markers CD44, SLC3A2 and MET were used since no CSC signature is available to date. Primary endpoint was loco-regional control (LRC).

#### Results

Tumours were classified into all four subtypes (43% atypical, 19% classical, 15% basal and 23% mesenchymal). The atypical subtype represented the subgroup with the highest LRC, while the mesenchymal subtype showed the lowest LRC (p=0.002, log-rank test). The basal and classical subtypes represented intermediate subgroups. Interestingly, the atypical subtype showed low expressions of the EMT signature, the hypoxia signature as well as low expressions of CSC markers. In contrast, the mesenchymal subtype was associated with increased expression of the EMT signature as well as hypoxia-associated genes and CSC markers.

#### Conclusion

We have shown for the first time, that the molecular subclassification reported for the TCGA HNSCC cohort allows for stratification of patients who were treated with postoperative RCTx regarding their loco-regional control. This was further supported by the enrichment of radiobiologically relevant aspects within those subtypes.

#### OC-0391 Treatment outcome of 265 patients with sinonasal adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC)

S. Akbaba<sup>1</sup>, D. Ahmed<sup>1</sup>, A. Mock<sup>2</sup>, K. Lang<sup>1</sup>, T. Held<sup>1</sup>, K. Herfarth<sup>1</sup>, S. Rieken<sup>1</sup>, P. Plinkert<sup>3</sup>, J. Debus<sup>1</sup>, S. Adeberg<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University Hospital Heidelberg, Radiation Oncology, Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>2</sup>University Hospital Heidelberg, Oncology, Heidelberg, Germany ; <sup>3</sup>University Hospital Heidelberg, Otorhinolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery, Heidelberg, Germany